IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA SOUTHERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)
v.) CRIM. CASE NO. 1:20-cr-36-ECM
)
JACKIE LEE KING)

MEMORANDUM OPINION and ORDER

Now pending before the court is Defendant Jackie Lee King's motions to continue trial (doc. 19 & 21) filed on December 10, 2020. Jury selection and trial are presently set on the term of court commencing on January 11, 2021. For the reasons set forth below, the court will grant a continuance of the trial pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7).

While the trial judge enjoys great discretion when determining whether to grant a continuance, the court is limited by the requirements of the Speedy Trial Act. 18 U.S.C. § 3161; *United States v. Stitzer*, 785 F.2d 1506, 1516 (11th Cir. 1986). The Act provides in part:

"In any case in which a plea of not guilty is entered, the trial of a defendant charged in an information or indictment with the commission of an offense shall commence within seventy days from the filing date (and making public) of the information or indictment, or from the date the defendant has appeared before a judicial officer of the court in which such charge is pending, whichever date last occurs."

18 U.S.C. § 3161(c)(1).

The Act excludes, however, certain delays from the seventy-day period, including delays based on "findings that the ends of justice served by taking such action outweigh the best interest of the public and the defendant in a speedy trial." 18 U.S.C. §

3161(h)(7)(A). In determining whether to grant a continuance under § 3161(h)(7), the court

"shall consider," among other factors, whether denial of a continuance would likely "result

in a miscarriage of justice," or "would deny counsel for the defendant . . . the reasonable

time necessary for effective preparation, taking into account the exercise of due diligence."

§ 3161(h)(7)(B)(i), (iv).

Counsel for King represents that additional time is necessary to adequately prepare

for trial because the government is "in the process of obtaining additional discovery."

(Doc. 19 at 2, para. 6). Counsel further represents that she needs additional time to review

the discovery and to investigate the possibility of resolution prior to trial. After careful

consideration, the Court finds that the ends of justice served by granting a continuance of

this trial outweigh the best interest of the public and the defendant in a speedy trial. Thus,

for good cause, it is

ORDERED that the motions to continue (doc. 19 & 21) are GRANTED, and jury

selection and trial are CONTINUED from January 11, 2021 to the criminal term of court

set to commence on April 26, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. in Dothan, Alabama. All deadlines tied

to the trial date are adjusted accordingly.

The United States Magistrate Judge shall conduct a pretrial conference prior to the

April trial term.

Done this 14th day of December, 2020.

/s/Emily C. Marks

EMILY C. MARKS

CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE